

the Alliance for Rail Competition, Consumers United for Rail Equity, the American Chemistry Council, the National Industrial Transportation League, Edison Electric Institute, the National Association of Wheat Growers, and the National Barley Growers Association.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, in introducing this bill. Together, we will work to ensure passage of this important legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support for House Resolution 250, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Hepatitis B Awareness Month. Chronic liver disease is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, so it is imperative for the Congress and federal government to become more focused on Hepatitis viruses.

Viral hepatitis represents a disease entity caused by at least 5 unrelated viruses which attack the cells of the liver. The majority of viral hepatitis cases are due to the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), or hepatitis C virus (HCV). Infection with hepatitis B virus can produce a chronic infection which may lead to death from chronic liver disease.

Studies show that 4.9 percent of Americans have been infected with HBV, of whom 1.25 million are chronically infected. The expected direct medical costs associated with acute and chronic HBV infection for one U.S. birth cohort are estimated to be \$81.9 million. The consequences of hepatitis-induced chronic liver disease may not become apparent until decades after infection.

Using the national data, it is estimated that more than 931,000 New Yorkers have been infected with HBV, with 46,550 of these persons chronically infected. An estimated 342,000 New Yorkers have been infected with HCV, with 237,500 of these persons chronically infected. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are complex infections that have significant epidemiologic, social and medical impact.

In addition to the potential financial burden to the state and the Nation, viral hepatitis can have a tremendous impact on the lives of many New Yorkers. As a result, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) identified the need for a comprehensive, collaborative and organized approach by partners across New York to address the public health problems associated with viral hepatitis.

On June 3 and 4, 2003, the NYSDOH, along with partners and stakeholders from across the state, participated in the Viral Hepatitis Strategic Planning Summit. This summit was to be the beginning of the development of a statewide viral hepatitis strategic plan. The two-day meeting began with presentations by representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH. Then the participants were divided into four focus areas: (1) Prevention, (2) Education, (3) Surveillance and Research, and (4) Medical and Case Management. The focus areas served as the central elements of the strategic

plan. By the end of the 2-day meeting, each focus area identified 3 to 5 priority issues, which were then developed into long-term goals, each with strategies and 5-year action plans for meeting the goals.

On Wednesday, May 11, at the Millennium Hilton, 55 Church St. in New York City, the Aim for the B campaign will conduct a media event to call greater awareness to hepatitis B. Speakers and panelists for the New York event include confirmed representatives from the Mayor's office, Hepatitis B Foundation, Weill Cornell Medical Center and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. There will be other community events from coast-to-coast the week of May 9, and I salute those associated with this outreach and prevention effort.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the chance to convey my unity of support for House Resolution 250 and for the impressive awareness efforts being conducted nationwide to address hepatitis B.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD H. WIENER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS THE 107TH PRESIDENT OF THE BERGEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Mr. Richard H. Wiener, the incoming President of the Bergen County Bar Association in the great state of New Jersey. Mr. Wiener will be inaugurated as the Bergen County Bar Association's 107th President on the occasion of its Annual Dinner Dance on Friday, May 6th, and I ask that my esteemed colleagues join me in recognizing his outstanding achievements on behalf of the legal profession and on behalf of the communities of northern New Jersey.

A member of the Bergen County Bar Association since 1983 and a member of its Board of Trustees for the last dozen years, Richard H. Wiener has distinguished himself in the practice of law. His leadership has been recognized by his colleagues at Aronsohn, Weiner & Salerno, P.C. of Hackensack, New Jersey, a highly regarded law firm well-known for representing many prominent banking institutions and leasing companies in countless and often highly complicated litigation matters. The Managing Partner of his firm since 1985, he has demonstrated particular expertise in commercial litigation and family law for more than two decades. Because of his peers' acknowledgment of his professional abilities and his sharp legal intellect, Richard H. Wiener currently serves as Chairman of the Legal Committee for the Eastern Association of Equipment Lessors and as a prominent member of the National Legal Committee of the Equipment Leasing Association, and has lectured extensively around the nation on behalf of both organizations on various aspects of banking law and equipment leasing.

A graduate of the University of Maryland and the Hofstra University School of Law, Richard H. Wiener has also achieved professional recognition for his thorough and meticulous legal scholarship and his impeccable professional reputation. He served a Judicial

Clerkship under the Honorable Edward J. Van Tassel JSC from 1983 to 1984, and has been named to numerous leadership positions by the Bergen County Bar Association. He currently serves as Chairman of the Bench Bar Liaison Committee, as an active member of both the Civil Practice and Family Law Committees, and is a longtime member of the Bergen County Judicial Selections Committee. Previously, Richard H. Wiener was appointed Chairman of the Bergen County Ethics Committee on Fee Arbitration by the Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey, and was one of two attorneys named by the State Supreme Court to serve on the Committee on Character from 1994 to 2002. One of his most enduring legacies to the legal profession is the purchase of the building housing the Bergen County Bar Foundation's headquarters, also home to the offices of the Bergen County Bar Association, which was made possible through the tireless fundraising efforts that he helped lead along with several other prominent members of the Bar Association.

Above all, Richard H. Wiener has distinguished himself as a man dedicated to his family and his community. He, his wife Bonnie, and their beloved daughter Danielle have lived in Wyckoff, New Jersey for eleven years. In that Borough, he has devoted his time and effort to innumerable good causes. A past President of the Wyckoff Public Library Board of Trustees, Richard H. Wiener currently serves the Borough as its Traveling Softball Coordinator, an active basketball and softball coach, and as Chairman of the Wyckoff Recreation Committee. These are but a few of his many volunteer activities over the years.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing the professional and civic contributions of the next President of the Bergen County Bar Association, Mr. Richard H. Wiener.

"TORN FROM THE FLAG"—NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a new documentary film now in production dealing with the 1956 Hungarian Revolt against Soviet occupation. Entitled "Torn from the Flag," the film is being prepared as part of the 2006 celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising. This film will include important archival material and recently opened files that have not been available until recently. It will also include insightful interviews with Hungarian freedom fighters, former political prisoners, secret police, and foreign citizens who participated in or witnessed the events.

On October 13, 1956, students and workers commenced a spontaneous uprising against the repressive communist dictatorship. Against all odds, they successfully took on and defeated the police and installed a new government. There were eighteen days of freedom before Soviet tanks and military forces launched a major attack on November 4 crushing, once and for all, the uprising. Some